

69. *Vorderman's 'Birds of Batavia.'*

[Bataviasche Vogels door A. G. Vorderman. Part V. Overgedrukt uit het Natuurk. Tijds. Nederl. Indië, Deel xliii. Atl. 3.]

Mr. Vorderman continues his notes on the birds of the vicinity of Batavia (*cf.* *Ibis*, 1884, p. 111).

70. *Wagler's Six Ornithological Memoirs* (reprint).

[Wagler's Six Ornithological Memoirs from the 'Isis.' Edited by P. L. Sclater, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S. London: 1884.]

Wagler's six memoirs are certainly the most important ornithological papers of the 'Isis;' and the Willughby Society has done a good work in reprinting them. If Boie's memoirs were treated in the same way, as we trust will be the case, the long series of this old German journal would cease to be an absolutely necessary component of the ornithologist's library.

XXXVIII.—*Letters, Announcements, &c.*

We have received the following letters addressed to the Editors of 'The Ibis:—

Northrepps,
April 18, 1884.

SIRS,—In the last number of 'The Ibis' (*suprà*, p. 207) reference is made to Dr. Dybowski's valuable paper on the Birds of Kamtschatka, published in the Bull. Soc. Zool. de France, 1883, p. 351. In this paper, and also in one by Mr. Taczanowski at p. 329 of the same volume, *Astur atricapillus* is included as a species inhabiting Kamtschatka, the only authority for so regarding it being, as far as I am aware, a description of a young female Goshawk, referred by Mr. Taczanowski to this species, which is given at p. 331 of his paper just mentioned.

So far as my experience goes, it is not possible to distinguish with any certainty *Astur atricapillus* in the first year's plumage from *A. palumbarius* at a similar age; and I am

therefore sceptical as to the former being really an Asiatic species, and cannot but think it more probable that the specimen described by Mr. Taczanowski is a young female of *A. palumbarius*.

I may take the opportunity of observing that the White Goshawk, for which Dr. Dybowski has proposed the appropriate name of "*candidissimus*," would seem to be the same as that which was described as "*Accipiter astur* β " in the Zoogr. Rosso-As. of Pallas, vol. i. p. 370. It is, however, worthy of remark that Pallas describes the colour of the iris as "*flavissima*" and Dybowski as "*brunnea*."

Yours &c.,

J. H. GURNEY.

SIRS,—Can you give space for the following argument and actual record of a very rare Scottish bird? The enclosed slips explain my object in pressing for the adoption of a uniform method of recording rare occurrences of birds and other migrational phenomena.

I do not desire to force my method upon anybody, be he editor, or journalist, or natural historian of any area; I only wish to test its usefulness, and to arrive at uniformity of method, whether my plan, or a better matured one, be adopted. Originality has its charms, no doubt, but utility of method I hold cannot be overrated.

I send this record in the form proposed (p. 350), and I also instance how easy it is to extend from it for more popular or, it may be, for more permanent historical record.

SCOTLAND.

RECORD No. 2.

Duplicate.

*Being a full text of the Record, written out
direct from the Form.*

On March 31st, 1884, at Pentland Skerries, in the Pentland Firth, *Ruticilla titys* (the Black Redstart)—a fine adult male—was shot by Mr. John Gilmour, lighthouse-keeper, at the locality named: it was roughly skinned, and sent to J.

SCOTLAND.

18—.

RECORD No. 2.

Duplicate.

Occurrence of the Black Redstart, Ruticilla titys (Scop.), at Pentland Skerries, Pentland Firth.

Date.	Locality.	Species.	Age: ad. or young.	Sex.	Found alone			or with a flock	of its own species	or other species.	Direction of wind and strength.	Prevailing wind of past few days.	Weather.
					..	..	*	*	..	*			
March 31st, 1884 ..	Pentland Skerries ..	<i>Ruticilla titys</i> (Scop.) ..	ad.	♂	..	..	*	*	..	*	Strong S.E.	S. and S.E. (3) ..	Clear on 28th ; haze on 31st.

+ If the latter, name the species:—1 Robin, several Sandpipers, 1 Yellow Bunting, 1 Chaffinch, Wheatears (called "Stone-chats"), 1 Golden-crested Wren, 1 Common Thrush.

REMARKS.—Mr. John Gilmour, who shot this bird, did not know its name. He skinned it and sent me the rough skin, which I am having done up for our cabinet—*Mrs. Feilden & Harvie-Brown*. Mr. G. writes:—"I have never seen a bird like it before." This is the furthest northerly record in Scotland up to date.

A. Harvie-Brown for identification, and it is now in the museum of Major H. W. Feilden and Harvie-Brown. It arrived with [a flock of] other migrants, amongst which were 1 Robin, several Sandpipers, 1 Yellow Bunting, 1 Chaffinch, Wheatears [locally and erroneously called "Stonechats"], 1 Golden-crested Wren, and 1 Common Thrush. Mr. Gilmour writes:—"I have never seen a bird like it before." It came with a strong S.E. wind, and a S. and S.E. wind had prevailed for some days (3) beforehand. The weather was clear on the 28th, but hazy on the 31st, or day of capture.

Note.—This may, we believe, be considered the most northerly record of the species in Britain up to date.

In conclusion, uniformity of method is a desideratum—a saving of time, labour, and thought. If some such form be adopted by all readers, how easy would it become for an editor, or any other party desirous of writing at length, to "read as he ran," and to transform the uniform records into extended and possibly more popularly useful and permanent ones. A single page, or at most two, of any periodical each month would provide ample space for the whole uniform records of that month. Query:—How many pages more would give the permanent information whenever it is desired to extend it, or to "write off," "compile," and "render permanently historical" the fauna, or this portion of the faunal account, of any county or faunal area? And Query:—Would it not be easier to sift the value of each record if it were primarily placed in some such form? also to illustrate this and to reply to it?

To correspond and ask for further data and corroborative facts in connexion with all records of rarities consumes the time of a working naturalist. To minimize this loss of time seems desirable.

Example.—A correspondent writes:—"Dear H.-B. You record in 'Ibis' for June 1884 the occurrence of *Ruticilla titys* from Pentland Skerries, dated 31st March, 1884. Please inform me time of day it was captured or first seen."

Instead of this, it might be:—"Dear H.-B. : *vide* Record

No. 2, June 1884, Ibis, p. 350, *Ruticilla titys*. Wanted, time of day first seen or captured."

The reason for this query *might be* that the correspondent wished to compare the time with an occurrence at some other contiguous station, or to correlate with it a large "rush" of migrants.

When one has often a dozen or more such letters to reply to, the time could be reduced by method.

Yours &c.,

J. A. HARVIE-BROWN,

Member Migration Committee of the Brit. Assoc.

Bremen, May 8, 1884.

SIRS,—As the Editors of 'The Ibis' (1884, p. 116) express certain doubts in regard to the validity of the newly described species of Ostrich (*Struthio molybdophanes*), I may state that, to all who have seen specimens alive, there can be not the slightest doubt that it is a good one. When in Basel (Switzerland) a fortnight ago, I had the pleasure of seeing a flock of twenty-six specimens in the Zoological Garden, deposited there by Mr. Carl Hagenbeck, of Hamburg. There were fifteen males, all adult, and eleven females. Afterwards I saw a pair in the small zoological garden of Mr. Nill at Stuttgart*. All the males agreed exactly with the characters pointed out by Dr. Reichenow—*i. e.* the naked parts of the head, neck, thighs, and legs were delicate slate-grey, instead of flesh-red, as in *Struthio camelus*. A very striking character in coloration of the naked parts is also that the bill, with the exception of the brownish tip, and the gape, as well as the middle portions of the front of the tibia, are fine pink. As it seemed to me, the species was smaller in size than *S. camelus*. But whether I may be right in the latter suggestion or not, the difference in the coloration of the naked parts is sufficient to distinguish the species at a glance; and

* This little garden contains very interesting hybrids (young and full-grown) of *Ursus arctos* and *Ursus maritimus*. One old specimen is in the museum of Stuttgart.

as these characters are shown in a large number of specimens to be constant, I see no reason for not admitting this form of Ostrich as a distinct species. It has in every respect as much right to stand as a species as, for instance, *Rhea macrorhyncha*, Scl., or *Dromæus irroratus*, Bartlett.

Struthio molybdophanes has been sent from the Somali country by the indefatigable collectors of Mr. Carl Hagenbeck, the well-known dealer of Hamburg, to whom science is indebted for many new and interesting animals introduced into the European market. Mr. Hagenbeck's latest expeditions to the Somali country have been especially fruitful. When in Hamburg last year, I had the pleasure, in a collection of animals just arrived from the Somali country, of seeing an example of a new species of Ass (*Equus*) and two new Antelopes.

Yours &c.,

O. FINSCH.

Zoological Museum, Turin.

June 10th, 1884.

SIRS,—More than a year has elapsed since, having lost the use of my right arm and hand, I have been obliged to postpone to a better time the publication of the Introduction to my 'Ornitologia della Papuasias e delle Molucche,' which I hope to bring forward some day. In the meanwhile I am watching with great interest whatever appears relating to Papuan ornithology.

Among the papers recently published I wish to offer a few remarks first on part vii. of the "Contributions to the Zoology of New Guinea," by Mr. Ramsay (Pr. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. viii. pp. 15-29, June 1883). In this paper, already noticed in 'The Ibis,' 1884, p. 210, Mr. Ramsay describes several species as new.

(1) *Pæcilodryas sylvia*, p. 19. Evidently this is the bird which, in the 'Abstract' of the Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W., 31st January, 1883, p. 3, appeared as *Pæcilodryas melanoleuca*, and I have no doubt that this is the bird described by me as

Myiolestes bimaculatus, and which stands as *Pæcilodryas bimaculata* in the second part of my 'Ornitologia,' p. 85.

(2) *Myzomela eques*, var. This pretended variety of *M. eques* is described as wanting the red on the throat in the female, and as being, on the whole, a larger bird. I have already shown (*op. cit.* p. 302) that the specimens of *M. eques* vary a little as regards the dimensions; as to the female wanting the red on the throat, does not the specimen belong to another species, *M. obscura*?

(3) *Erythrura trichrea*, var. I have compared some New-Guinea specimens with others from Halmahera and Ternate (*E. modesta*, Wall.), and I have found that they are not different; the slight brown-yellow tint on the sides of the neck is scarcely perceptible and even wanting in some Moluccan specimens.

(4) *Eurostopodus astrolabæ*. From Mr. Ramsay's description I should say that the bird mentioned is no *Eurostopodus*, but a *Lyncornis*, and most likely *Lyncornis papuensis* (Schleg.).

(5) *Ægotheles? plumifera* may be a good species, but more specimens are required to settle its distinctness from *Æ. bennetti*.

(6) *Paradisea susannæ*, as already pointed out by the Editors of 'The Ibis,' is *P. decora*, Salv. & Godm.

(7) *Rhamphomantis rollesi*. The author does not point out in what respect his bird differs from *R. megarhynchus* (G. R. Gr.), the only known species of the genus, which is not even mentioned by Mr. Ramsay, and from his description it is impossible to gather what is the difference.

(8) *Sittella albifrons*. I cannot make out that this is different from *S. papuensis* (Schleg.), of which Mr. Ramsay makes no mention, although it is the only New-Guinea species previously known.

(9) *Ælurawdus melanocephalus*. Mr. Ramsay compares this supposed new species with *Æ. arfakianus* and *Æ. melanotis*, but I must say that I have failed to catch in what respect it differs.

In conclusion I doubt whether any of the nine species or

varieties described by Mr. Ramsay as new will really stand as such.

Very important papers are those published by Mr. Sclater on the "Timor-Laut or Tenimber Group of Islands" (P.Z.S. 1883, pp. 48-58, 194-200) and one by Dr. A. B. Meyer, 'Ueber neue und ungenügend bekannte Vögel,' etc. (pp. 1-64). It is impossible to give an opinion on the many new forms described in the last paper without actual comparison, but, judging from what I know of the geographical distribution of the birds in the Papuan subregion, I should say that several forms from Timor-Laut, described as new by Dr. Meyer, and which by Mr. Sclater have been attributed to Ké-Islands species, must be really distinct. I think that such will be found to be the case with *Geoffroyus timorlaoënsis* and *Philemon timorlaoënsis*. Rather unexpected comes the new *Artamus musschenbroeki*, Meyer, allied to *A. leucogaster*; doubtfully good species appear to me *Calornis circumscripta* and *Ptilopus flavovirescens*.

As to the *Urospizias* from Timor-Laut, which Dr. Meyer attributes with a query to *U. albiventris*, Salvad., from the Ké Islands, I suspect that it must be a different species. I take this opportunity to mention that *U. albiventris* is missing in the very recent and important 'List of the Diurnal Birds of Prey,' by Mr. Gurney.

Also I am much inclined to think that the bird from Timor-Laut attributed by Mr. Sclater to *Corvus validissimus* must belong to a different species, as the true *C. validissimus* inhabits a very limited region, and, from what I know, is only to be found in the group of Halmahera, or Northern Moluccas, and does not even reach the Amboyna or Ceram group. Furthermore, *Dicruropsis bracteata* and *Stigmatops squamata* from Timor-Laut, the last doubtfully identified by Mr. Sclater, require comparison.

Lastly, I wish to point out that in a recent paper by Dr. Finsch, "Ueber Vögel der Südsee," at p. 29, the *Goura* from Port Moresby is called *G. scheepmakeri*. It seems that Dr. Finsch has only obtained an adult male (No. 1386); still he adds that the young birds want the brown-chestnut tip to the

wing-coverts, and that they quite agree, even in the smallest particulars, with the description of the type specimen. It follows from this that Dr. Finsch identifies with his *G. scheepmakeri* the bird which I have named *Goura albertisi*. I do not wish to repeat here all the reasons which, in two papers published by me on the subject, I have adduced before coming to the conclusion that the specimens of the genus *Goura* from Hall Bay, which are similar to those from Port Moresby, are specifically different from the type of *G. scheepmakeri*, with which I carefully compared several of them. Those reasons have been recapitulated in my 'Ornitologia,' iii. p. 205. Here I only wish to bring forward two arguments which disprove Dr. Finsch's identification:—

1st. The type of *G. scheepmakeri* has the wing-speculum, formed by the greater coverts of the secondaries, of a much darker grey than several adult birds and a young specimen seen by me of my *G. albertisi*; all these have the speculum grey, exactly of the same colour. It is worth noticing that in the allied species, *G. sclateri*, the young birds have not the speculum darker than the adult.

2nd. Dr. Finsch told me that he received the type specimen of *G. scheepmakeri* from somebody of the Leiden Museum, and that most likely it had been obtained by Solomon Müller near Princess Marianna Straits. If such is the case it is utterly impossible that *G. scheepmakeri* should be identical with my *G. albertisi*, as between the area supposed to be inhabited by *G. scheepmakeri* and that inhabited by *G. albertisi* there is the extensive region, through which runs the Fly river, which is inhabited by *Goura sclateri*, quite different from both.

Yours &c.,

T. SALVADORI.

Mr. WHITELY has kindly sent us the following extracts from a letter received from his son, the well-known collector Mr. Henry Whitely, dated from his encampment in the interior

of British Guiana, one day's journey from Roraima (*cf.* Ibis, 1882, p. 76, and 1883, p. 203).

“ Roraima, Oct. 15, 1883.

“ I have been away from my camp for six weeks near Roraima, and have ascended the slope twice to the foot of the vertical rock, which is over 7000 feet in height ; so that the height of the mountain must be nearly 9000 feet. I have made a lot of observations for the R. G. S. ; but these are too long to copy now, as the Indian who takes this letter down starts today. I shall be here probably six months longer, and shall then move down to the river Caramang, where I may stay three or four months collecting. But I shall not go on to the Merumé Mountains, but come straight on from Caramang to Camasaca, and thence to Bartica Grove. My collection up to the present time is a very fine one. I have got over thirty species more to be added to the birds of British Guiana. I have bought four ‘ woodskins,’ which are stationed on the Atapunam, and my two boats are on the Curubury river ; so that I have kept open the means of getting back. But you must not be anxious if you do not receive letters, as it is very difficult to get them sent. I have got specimens of *Campylopterus hyperythrus*, *Lophornis pavoninus*, *Diglossa major*, and another beautiful little *Lophornis*, with a chestnut-brown crown and spangled whiskers ; likewise a few more males of *Heliodoxa xanthogonys* ; but this is a rare bird. The female of *L. pavoninus* is a very interesting bird, beautifully speckled on the throat and breast. I am very busy with the butterflies now. When I arrived here I put up a very large house, just below where I was collecting last time, near a wood, as the Indians told me I should get no leaves for thatching nearer to Roraima, which was true, I found. I waited some months till the birds were in good plumage, and then went on to Roraima ; it is one day's journey. I am not very high here, and it was not more than 3700 feet when I got to the foot of Roraima. I found some Indian huts there, and two of these the Indians gave up to me. The huts were on the Savannah (height about 3000

feet) ; but I sent my Indians up on the mountain to a height of 5500 feet, and kept four Indian boys going up every day to bring me down the birds. I was up three times myself. I had a path cut through the forest to get to a place whence I thought it was possible to ascend the mountain ; and I took fourteen Indians with me to make the attempt, but found it impossible with the means at our command. I have made plans of the mountains, but must leave them until I arrive in England, and then I will write another paper for the R. G. S. I have a large field here planted with cassava. I do not know whether it will be ready by the time I shall leave, but I have taken all these precautions in case of necessity. At any rate, it will come in for the Indians, who have kept me well supplied with food. I planted some of my seeds, but they came up and then died off. I suppose the soil was not suited for them ; the only things that came up well and that I enjoyed, too, were the radishes. You may imagine that I am very busy now. I have made two journeys away from my house—one to Roraima, and the other to get *Lophornis pavoninus* ; but I shall make no more till I start for the Caramang, as my boots are getting rather worn. I only brought two pairs with me, and I must preserve one pair for coming back. I have got lots of fowls, so that I eat one now and again for Sunday's dinner, and have also lots of eggs. I took plenty of benzine collas with me, and have washed with arsenical soap the feet and bills of the birds, so that my collection is in fine order. I have got a fine *Pene-lope*, much larger than *P. marail*, and also some different Hawks and Owls and a tiny little Dove. I hope to be in Georgetown by August or September of next year. You can still address newspapers and letters to Bartica Grove, and, if opportunity offers, the Rev. Mr. Kellan will forward them to me, just as he sent me the last packet."

News of Travellers and Collectors.—Herr F. Bohndorff "the last man who left Khartoum before it was hemmed in," has brought back a good series of birds, collected in the

Niam-niam country, where he accompanied Dr. Junker during his recent expedition. A set of these have been secured for the National Collection; and Mr. Sharpe has exhibited some of the more striking forms at a recent meeting of the Linnean Society. We observed fine examples of *Turacus giganteus*, *Corythaix schuetti*, *Musophaga rossæ*, and of *Buceros atratus*, and other species, which indicate that the fauna of the West Coast extends into the valley of the Welle. Mr. Sharpe has described several species of the collection as new, amongst which are *Crateropus bohndorffi*, *Sigmodus griseimentalis*, and *Pionias bohndorffi*.

Mr. C. W. Rosset, who was with Dr. Riebeck in Socotra, is just preparing to start for Ceylon, whence, after a short stay, he will make an excursion to the Maldives and Laccadives, and endeavour to increase our somewhat scanty knowledge of their fauna and flora. His address is to the care of the German Consulate, Colombo, Ceylon.

Mr. H. O. Forbes is in London and busy preparing a volume on his experiences in the Eastern Archipelago. This completed, he proposes to return to the East and explore the Owen-Stanley range in South-eastern New Guinea, making his way, if possible, from Port Moresby to the eastern coast of the great peninsula.

Of Mr. Henry Whitely's recent doings in British Guiana we have been able to give an account in his own words. Mr. E. F. im Thurn, who is now settled as a magistrate in the Pomeroon-River district in the same colony, is likewise anxious to have a try to get to the summit of Roraima, and has issued amongst his friends a printed appeal on this subject, which has attracted considerable notice, and will probably be brought before the British Association at their Montreal meeting.

Dr. F. Leuthner is also making preparations for a naturalist's excursion to South America, and has selected the Upper Orinoco as a locality hitherto little explored, for which he hopes to be able to depart this autumn.

M. Taczanowski informs us that the two collectors of the Warsaw Museum, Messrs. Stolzmann and Siemiradzski, have

suffered somewhat in health in Western Ecuador, and will return to Europe with their collections at the close of this year.

New Birds in the Zoological Society's Gardens.—Some very interesting birds have lately been added to the Zoological Society's living collection. Three fine males of the Lesser Bird of Paradise (*Paradisea minor*) have been brought home from New Guinea by Mr. Kettlewell, of the steam-yacht 'Marchesa.' In the Parrot-house is also a fine example of the curious *Cochoa viridis* of the Himalayas, the first, we believe, that has reached Europe alive. In one of the large bird-cages in the Insect-house are a pair of *Eclectus polychlorus* (green male and red female), which get on so well together that it is hoped they may take to nesting. In the same building is to be seen a fine specimen of a most remarkable Ground-Cuckoo (*Carpococcyx radiatus*), which in gait and habits clearly betrays the Gallinaceous affinities of the Cuculidæ predicted of them by Garrod and Forbes from their internal structure.

Other birds, not elsewhere to be seen alive, are examples of *Zosterops palpebrosus* of India and *Z. simplex* of China, and a specimen of the very singular Polyborine form, *Polyboroides typicus*, from West Africa.

Rochebrune v. Nitzsch.—In the second livraison of vol. viii. of the 'Actes' of the Linnean Society of Bordeaux (March 1884), Dr. A. T. de Rochebrune, Assistant Naturalist at the Museum of Paris, has commenced what promises to be an important memoir on the Birds of Senegambia. We will defer a general notice of this work until its conclusion; but we wish to call attention to Dr. Rochebrune's chapter on the axillary plume of the bird's feather in different groups, in which he most positively controverts some of Nitzsch's dicta on this subject. Nitzsch's conclusions on other points of the structure of birds which he examined are so uniformly accurate that it is difficult to believe that he can have made

so many erroneous observations on the axillary plume as Dr. Rochebrune imputes to him.

Houbaras as Food.—"Three Houbaras were shot, and on our arrival in camp (between Souakin and Cassala) we found the cook-boy had caught one in a noose: we were glad to discover sporting tendencies in our servants. I never ate a more delicious bird than the Houbara. It is but too frequently the case that the game of these countries is dry and unpalatable—at any rate, it would be thought so in civilized countries; but this bird would be a great delicacy anywhere. Its flesh when cooked is dark brown and firm, very much resembling that of a Goose, and has a flavour entirely its own. The birds that we shot were very fat, in excellent condition, and were very good eating, both hot and cold."—*James's Wild Tribes of the Soudan.*

News of the Kilima-ndjaro Expedition.—Letters have been received from Mr. H. H. Johnston dated from the British Residency, Zanzibar, May 13th. After consultation with Sir John Kirk, Mr. Johnston had selected the Mombasa route for Kilima-ndjaro, and was expecting to depart for that port in about a fortnight's time. The country between Mombasa and Chaga was said to be quiet, and to present no serious difficulties in the way. Mr. Johnston had succeeded in obtaining the services of three of the bird-skinners that had been employed by Dr. Fischer, and of a botanical collector trained under Sir John Kirk, of whose kindness and assistance he speaks in the highest terms. Mr. Johnston, in spite of the trying climate of Zanzibar, was in excellent health and had strong hopes of the success of the expedition.

Ridgway Ornithological Club, Chicago.—At the monthly meeting held March 6th last, after the reception of donations and election of new members and regular business of the meeting, Mr. B. T. Gault read a paper on *Picus nuttalli*, with an account of its nesting in California. Mr. G. L. Toppan exhibited a fine male *Milvulus tyrannus*, with tail

10½ inches long, lately collected in California. Mr. H. K. Coale made comparisons (illustrated with the specimens) between *Cypseloides niger borealis* from Colorado and *Cypselus apus* of Europe.

Hodgson's Ornithological Drawings.—The Library of the Zoological Society of London has received a very important addition in the shape of the original set of Mr. Brian H. Hodgson's drawings of Himalayan birds, prepared by native artists under Mr. Hodgson's superintendence during his long residence in Nipal and Sikhim. The series comprises 1104 sheets, and will, when bound, form 12 volumes. For the last twelve years the drawings have been lent to Mr. Allan Hume, who has now handed them over to the Society at the request of Mr. Hodgson.

The late Count E. Turati's Collection.—Count Salvadori informs us that the splendid collection of mounted birds belonging to the late Count E. Turati has been presented to the city of Milan. We trust that every care will be taken of this valuable series, which contains many types and ornithic rarities.

Anniversary Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union.—The Annual Meeting of the B. O. U. was held at 6 Tenterden Street on Wednesday the 21st May, at 6 p.m., Mr. Sclater in the Chair, Lord Lilford (the President) being unavoidably absent through illness.

The Minutes of the last Meeting having been read and confirmed, the B. O. U. Committee presented the following Report:—The original number of Members when the B. O. U. was founded in 1859 was only twenty. At the last Anniversary the Union consisted of 125 Ordinary Members, 1 Extraordinary Member, 9 Honorary Members, and 19 Foreign Members, making a total of 154 Members. Of these 13 are Original Members, so that we have only to regret the loss of seven of the founders of the Union. Since the last Anniversary Meeting the losses by death have been five, viz. two Ordinary Members (Mr. W. A. Forbes and Mr.

William Forster) and three Foreign Members (Dr. W. C. H. Peters, Professor Reinhardt, and Dr. H. Schlegel), making the present list consist of 123 Ordinary, 1 Extraordinary, 9 Honorary, and 16 Foreign Members—together 149 Members. The Candidates for admission to the Union at this Meeting are sixteen, which is the largest number proposed at any Anniversary since the foundation of the Union, and gives evidence of the increasing popularity of the B. O. U.

The Accounts for the volume of 'The Ibis' for 1883, as also for the 'Ibis List of British Birds,' having been discussed and passed, the following new members were balloted for and duly elected:—Geoffrey Fowell Buxton, Sunny Hill, Thorpe, Norwich; Joseph Whitaker, Rainworth Lodge, Mansfield; Major E. A. Butler, Belfast; C. J. Holdsworth, Wilmslow, Cheshire; Capt. C. T. Bingham, Moulmein, Burmah; Lieut. Henry Barnes, Commissariat Department, India; William Ruxton Davison, Ootacamund, South India; J. G. Goodchild, 28 Jermyn Street, S.W.; Henry Ogg Forbes, Rubislaw Den, Aberdeen; Herbert Langton, 115 Queen's Road, Brighton; R. L. Patterson, Croft House, Holywood, co. Down; H. Heywood Jones, Larkhill, West Derby, Liverpool; Frank E. Beddard, Zoological Society's Gardens, N.W.; Abel Chapman, Silksworth House, Sunderland; A. S. Vesey, 3 Campden Villas, Barnes; and W. C. Tait, Oporto.

The following officers were elected for the year 1884-5:—*President*, The Right Hon. Lord Lilford; *Secretary*, H. E. Dresser, Esq.; *Editors*, P. L. Selater, Esq., and Howard Saunders, Esq. Mr. F. DuCane Godman was elected on the Committee in place of Mr. W. B. Tegetmeier, who retired by rotation. A vote of thanks to the Chairman was proposed by Mr. G. C. Taylor, seconded by Mr. W. H. Hudleston, and carried unanimously. Mr. R. Bowdler Sharpe exhibited and made a few remarks on the peculiar new European Nut-hatch (*Sitta whiteheadi*) lately discovered by Mr. Whitehead in the mountains of Corsica. The Meeting then adjourned, and the Annual Dinner was, as usual, held, and was attended by about thirty Members and guests.

Obituary. PROFESSOR SCHLEGEL.—Our Foreign Member, Hermann Schlegel, the late distinguished Director of the Leiden Museum and author of many well-known ornithological works, was of German origin, and was born at Altenburg, in Saxony, in 1804. Inspired by an innate love of natural objects, and not being satisfied to follow his father's trade, Schlegel betook himself, when quite young, to the study of zoology at Vienna, whence, in 1825, he was induced to go to Leiden, in the hope of obtaining an appointment as Naturalist in the East-Indian possessions of Holland. The vacant post having been already filled, Schlegel was obliged to content himself at first with being amanuensis to Temminck, but a few years later (29th November, 1828) was appointed Conservator of the Museum. Upon Temminck's death in 1858, Schlegel was named Director, and Prof. Van der Hoeven, whose claims it was difficult to ignore, Over-Director of the Museum. This unsatisfactory arrangement did not last long; and in 1860 Schlegel became sole Director by Van der Hoeven's resignation, and retained the post until his death, on the 17th of January last. Schlegel was a highly cultivated man in many respects, and wrote and spoke German, French, Dutch, and English with equal facility. His fluency in English was wonderful for one who had never been in our country. His best-known ornithological works are those on the birds of Holland ('*De Vogels van Nederland beschreven en afgebeeld*'), published at Leiden, 1854-58; his '*Revue Critique des oiseaux d'Europe*' (1844); the '*Recherches sur la Faune de Madagascar*' (1868), prepared in conjunction with the traveller Pollen; the '*Monographie des Loxiens*,' written jointly by him and Prince Charles Bonaparte; and the '*Revue méthodique et critique des collections du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle des Pays-Bas*.' This last-named work, which on its completion was arranged to form eight thin volumes, although prepared in a somewhat superficial way, and in accordance with the occasionally fanciful views of affinities held by its illustrious author, will long remain a most important work of reference to ornithologists who are engaged upon the study of the ornis of the Oriental Region.